

Old Stone Fort

Sustainability Features

Historical Significance

This state archaeological park is dedicated to the preservation, protection, study and interpretation of a remarkable surviving example of Tennessee's prehistoric heritage. The Old Stone Fort is a 2000 year-old American Indian ceremonial site. It consists of mounds and walls that combine with cliffs and rivers to form an enclosure measuring 1-1/4 miles around. The 50-acre hilltop enclosure mound site is believed to have served as a central ceremonial gathering place for some 500 years.

Natural Area

In the fall of 2011, Old Stone Fort closed its golf course. It was decided that the land would be converted into a natural area through the planting of natural trees and grasses. In the spring of 2012, the site was opened as a day use area for the park's hikers and bikers who utilize the existing paved golf cart paths. This transformation not only helps the environment through the reduction of water usage, fertilizers, and exhaust fumes from gas-powered mowers required at the maintained golf course, it also provides a habitat for wildlife including deer, turkey, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies.

Events

Annually, on the last weekend in September, the park hosts a celebration of the ancient arts and archaeoskills. Activities include flint-knapping and atlatl competitions. Other demonstrations include Native American pottery construction, shell carving, basketry, fire making, native plant use, cordage production and many other primitive skills.



Park Highlights

- Visited by more than 220,000 people in 2011
- The trail around the perimeter of the ancient site is 1 ¼ miles in length and is a great way to learn about this historic area. It covers the most dramatic scenery in the park including several waterfalls. There is an additional 2 miles of foot trails beyond the main interpretive trail.

